(g) to (i) Yes, Sir. In the year 2006-07, after conducting detailed Enquirer regarding late running of trains disciplinary action has taken against 2002 Railway staff for identified avoidable failures.

Agricultural distress zones

*277. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to identify agricultural distress zones in each State by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to identify agricultural distress zones in each State by the Central Government. However, 31 suicide prone districts were identified in four States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The Government of India has approved a Rehabilitation Packge amounting to Rs.16978.69 crore, for these districts in September, 2006, consisting of short term and long term measures. The Package is being implemented over a period of three years. It aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihod support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, improved marketing facilities and subsidiary income opportunities. For alleviating the hardship faced by the debt stressed families of the deceased farmers, an *ex-gratia* assistance is being provided @ Rs 50 lakh from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to each district covered by the Package.

Besides, to improve the condition of farmers and growth of agriculture sector in terms of production and productivity across the country, a number of measures/ initiatives have been taken by Government. These, *inter alia*, include a comprehensive credit policy for agriculture sector, reduction of interest crop loan upto Rs.3.00 takh for the farmers to 7% per annum, National Horticulture mission, National Bamboo Mission, National Rainfed Area Authority and National Water shed Development Project for Rainfed Areas. Government has also recently approved two new schemes namely (i) National Food Security Mission to increase production and productivity of rice, wheat and pulses and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme to incentivise States to invest more in agriculture sector by drawing up comprehrnsive State and District Agriculture Plans for accelerating the growth of the sector.

AIDS cases in NCR

†*278. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards burgeoning HIV positive (AIDS) cases in NCR;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.